

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 224409

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FOLLOWING REPEAT THENS 7161 ACTION EC BRUSSELS ANKARA INFO

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QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 7161

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, GK, CY, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK PRESS REPORTS TURKS REJECT EC-9 MEDIATION ON CYPRUS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 08255

1. THE MAJORITY OF THE GREEK-LANGUAGE PRESS ON SEPTEMBER 17
- AS WELL AS THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWS
AGENCY BULLETIN ON THE SAME DATE - CITED A REUTER REPORT FROM
BRUSSELS TO THE EFFECT THAT TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER
CAGLAYANGIL HAD ON THE PREVIOUS DAY REJECTED AN EC-9 OFFER
TO EXTEND THEIR GOOD OFFICES IN AN EFFORT TO MEDIATE
BETWEEN THE GREEKS AND THE TURKS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM

2. CAGLAYANGIL REPORTEDLY TOLD JOURNALISTS AFTER DAY-LONG
DISCUSSION WITH THE EC FORIEGN MINISTERS ON THE PREVIOUS
DAY THAT THE EC-9 INITIATIVE WHICH WAS FIRST PROPOSED AT
THE TIME OF THE CSCE CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI, COULD NOT
BE CARRIED ANY FURTHER. HE IS SAID TO HAVE ASSERTED
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PAGE 02 STATE 224409

THAT A KEY TURKISH PRECONDITION TO ANY EC-9 ROLE ON

CYPRUS WAS THE TERMINATION OF THE U.S. EMBARGO ON MILITARY ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY. CAGLAYANGIL THEN NOTED THAT SINCE THE EC CAN NOT GUARANTEE A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, THE HELSINKI INITIATIVE IS DEAD. THE GREEK PRESS AFFORDED FAIRLY PROMINENT TREATMENT TO THE REUTER REPORT WITH VRADYNI (PRO-GOVERNMENT) LEADING INTO ITS STORY WITH SIX-COLUMN HEADLINE "TURKEY REJECTED WITH A CRUDE VET THE MEDIATION OF THE COMMON MARKET ON THE CYPRUS CASE".

3. WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING IN REFTTEL OR OTHER REPORTS TO CONFIRM THE FLURRY OF STORIES HERE YESTERDAY BASED ON THE REUTER REPORT. THE STORY HAS ALREADY DIED, WHICH SUGGESTS IT PROBABLY HAD NO BASIS IN FACT. NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT USEC AND ANKARA MAY BE ABLE TO SHED ON THE MATTER.

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